

ZSI E-News

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Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Readers

It is with great joy that I would like to take this opportunity to offer my warmest congratulations on the successful release of the August 2025 edition of E-News of the Zoological Survey of India. It is a true testament to the commendable work we have all made collectively in the areas of faunal exploration, documentation, and discovery, biodiversity studies, species identification, wildlife research, and conservation along the length and breadth of our country. The tireless work and generous commitment of our scientists, researchers, and field experts, sometimes working in some of the remotest and harshest parts of the country, have gone on to shed light on the phenomenal biodiversity to which India is endowed. Their unwavering commitment not only adds depth to our science but also solidifies the foundation for well-informed conservation measures to protect our natural heritage for generations to come.

The Zoological Survey of India organized “Extraordinary: Wings of Wisdom” (*Women’s Scientist Conclave 2025*) on the 6th of August 2025 to mark and celebrate the outstanding contributions of women in science and more. The event showcased the critical contribution of women scientists, researchers, and professionals who have made remarkable progress in advancing knowledge,

From the Director’s Desk

promoting innovation, and crafting the future of biodiversity research and conservation in Zoological Survey of India. As part of the initiative, the event also recognized economically weak yet meritorious girl students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels for their outstanding academic achievements and contributions in the field of Zoology. This recognition reflects ZSI’s commitment to empowering young women in science and nurturing the next generation of researchers and conservationists. With this celebration, ZSI reasserted its commitment to pushing for gender equality, advocating scientific excellence, and inclusive growth in zoological sciences. All the scientists, officers and staff of Zoological Survey of India, headquarters and all the regional centres actively engaged in the ‘*Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme*’ during this month at the office headquarters, emphasizing their public service and national development. The 79th Independence Day of India was celebrated in its headquarters and all the regional centres with patriotic zeal, followed by the ‘*Har Ghar Tiranga*’ campaign to pay tributes to the national flag and foster the culture of unity. Furthermore, scientists, officers, and staff members also took the solemn Sports Day Pledge, re-dedicating themselves to fostering physical fitness, team spirit, and a healthy working culture within the organization. During this month, scientists of ZSI identified a total of 1334 species from different faunal communities, including six new species including two species of beetle, three species of Hymenoptera, and one species of Snake. It is especially noteworthy that one species of mosquito, one species of Hemiptera, one Species of Hymenoptera, and one Species of fish have been recorded in India for the first time.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to our researchers, scientists, and all those involved in the meritorious discoveries and publications. Your dedication to faunal research is indeed worthy of high praise, and your discoveries are further enriching our understanding of India’s biodiversity. Let us keep working towards making even greater breakthroughs in the months and years to come.

Jai Hind,
Dr. Dhriti Banerjee
Director
5th September 2025
Kolkata

HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

Survey tours were conducted to West Bengal, Meghalaya and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. A total of 605 species of faunal communities belonging to Arachnida, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Mantodea, Blattodea, Mollusca, Platyhelminthes, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, and Nematelminths were identified. A total of two species belonging to Hymenoptera were described new to science. One species of Hemiptera was recorded for the first time from the country. A total of 67 species of Platyhelminthes, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, and Nematelminths were augmented to National Zoological Collections (NZCs). Apart from these, 14 species of archaeological specimens were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to SRM University, Sikkim and Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Uttar Pradesh. All officers and women employees attended the “Extraordinary: Wings of Wisdom” (*Women’s Scientist Conclave 2025*) 2025 at Taj Taa Kutir, Kolkata, West Bengal on 6th August 2025. All officers and staff members attended ‘*Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme*’ at the office premises during this month. 79th Independence Day and ‘*Har Ghar Tiranga*’ were celebrated at the office. Officers and all staff took the Sports Day Pledge on 29th August 2025 to stay mentally and physically fit by engaging in regular playing activities and exercise.



National Flag hoisting on the occasion of 79th Independence Day celebration



Director with the Scientists and Staff of ZSI

Trilby Island
Wildlife Sanctuary



NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA

A total of 66 species of faunal communities belonging to Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Odonata, Araneae, Amphibia, and Pisces were identified. Scientists of the centre rendered Identification and Advisory service to three different institutions. ‘*Har Ghar Tiranga*’ campaign was organized among the office staff on 13th August by distributing National Flag and uploading selfies with the national flag. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated at the centre on 15th August 2025. Officers and staffs of the centre took the National Sports Day Pledge on 29th August 2025. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘*Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme*’.



Celebration of Independence Day in the office



Karmayogi Training programme held on 21st August 2025

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

A survey tour was conducted Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary in Thane district, Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary in Solapur district, and Sudhagad Wildlife Sanctuary in Raigad district from 7th August to 14th August 2025. Local surveys were also conducted to Pagote to Chowk, Raigad district, on 12th and 13th August 2025, respectively. A total of 45 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Coleoptera, Chilopoda, Blattodea, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified. One species of Chafer Beetle, i.e., *Neoserica akurdi* Kalawate, 2025, was described as new to science. Identification and



79th Independence Day Celebration



Terrestrial snail, *Ariophanta ammonia* (Deshayes, 1850)

advisory services were rendered to four different institutions, and six manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre during this month. A total of ten DNA barcodes were submitted to NCBI. A total of 255 visitors, including students from various educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre. The 79th Independence Day of India was celebrated at the centre, and all officers and staff of the centre participated in the “*Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign*” on 14th August 2025. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘*Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme*’.



Rashtriya Karmayogi Training



'Rashtriya Karmayogi Core Program' training on 26th August 2025.

CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

A total of 86 species of faunal communities including Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Mollusca, and Decapoda were identified. A total of 65 visitors including students from various educational institutions, visited the museum of the centre. The 79th Independence Day of India

was celebrated by the centre, and all officers and staff of the centre participated in the "Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign". Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Celebration of 79th Independence Day on 15th August 2025

DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN

A survey tour was conducted to Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. A total of 110 species of faunal communities belonging to Gastropoda, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, and Pisces were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to BGSB University, Rajouri (J&K) and SPC Government College, Ajmer. A total of 40 visitors visited the museum of the centre. The 79th Independence Day and 'Har Ghar Tiranga' were celebrated during this month. "FIT India" pledge was also taken on National Sports Day celebration 2025. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Rashtriya Karmayogi training organized at DRC, Jodhpur



Har Ghar Tiranga Rally organized at DRC, Jodhpur

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

A total of 65 species of faunal communities belonging to Phthiraptera, Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Diptera, Pisces, Amphibia, and Reptilia were identified. The Centre organized “Mission Life Programme- Save Water, Save Electricity, healthy lifestyle” for awareness to the common public and by planting saplings under the initiative of Hon'ble PM of India “Ek Ped Maa Kae Naam Campaign” in the Matri Van of ZSI, NRC, Dehradun by staff of the centre and students of Uttaranchal University on 6th, 12th, 20th, and 26th August 2025. Under Special Campaign 5.0 conducted swachhta/cleanliness awareness drive was conducted in and around the centre and Kaulagrah Market, Dehradun on 6th, 12th, 20th, and 26th August 2025. ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Awareness Campaign rally conducted in Dehradun City by distributing the Indian Flag to Citizens by visiting house to house through the Officers and Staff of the centre on 12th August 2025. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated at the centre. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme’.



Independence Day Celebration



A Glimpse of IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop held at BSI/ZSI, NRC, Dehradun



Group photo of Participants of 3rd Batch of IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop from 23rd to 29th August 2025

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A survey tour was conducted to Odisha. A total of 748 specimens belonging to 131 species of fauna belonging to Crustacea, Ephemeroptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera, Odonata, Psocoptera, Mollusca, Amphibia, Aves, and Zooplankton were identified. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated at the centre. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme’.



Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* Linnaeus, 1758



Nilgiri pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis* Sharpe, 1885

GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA, BIHAR

A total of 81 species of faunal communities belonging to Protozoa, Insecta, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified during this month. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Officers and staff of the centre took the Sports Day Pledge on 29th August 2025. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Independence Day Celebrations on 15th August 2025



iGOT Karmayogi Training programme on 19th August 2025

MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU

A survey tour was conducted to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 25th to 30th August 2025. A total of 35 species of different faunal communities were identified during this month. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Independence Day celebration



Rashtriya Karmayogi Training Programme at the centre

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, SRI VIJAYA PURAM, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS



Andaman Common Mormon *Papilio polytes stichioides* Evans, 1912

One long-term survey was conducted to Great Nicobar Island during 1st to 24th August 2025 to study the Marine and Terrestrial faunal diversity. Ten-day local surveys were at Burmanallah, Kodyaghat, Kurmadera, Collinpur, North Bay, Science Centre, Carbyn's Cove, Dignabad, Junglighat, Chidiyatappu, Baratang, Havelock, and Mount Harriet of South Andaman to study the Terrestrial fauna and Marine Faunal diversity on 1st to 6th, 14th, 15th, 26th and 29th August 2025. A total of 190 species of faunal communities belonging to Platyhelminthes, Echinodermata, Isopoda, Decapoda, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Odonata, Orthoptera, Phasmatodea, Reptilia, Stomatopoda, Fishes, Echinodermata, and Mollusca were identified. Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to the Department of Environment and Forests, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'. 'Har Ghar Tiranga' awareness rally was organized on 15th August 2025 by the staff of this office from the office campus to Haddo Wharf.



iGOT Rashtriya Karmayogi Training Programme on 25th August 2025



Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

SUNDERBAN REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING, WEST BENGAL

A local survey was conducted to Matla River, Canning on 23rd August 2025. A total of 45 species of faunal communities belonging to Crustacea, Mollusca, and Pisces were identified during this month. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated and different competitions were jointly organized by the centre and Bandhumahal Club on that day. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Independence Day celebration

FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

A survey tour was conducted under the programme “Faunal Diversity of Three Ramsar Sites of Madhya Pradesh” from 16th July 2025 to 4th August 2025. A total of 83 species of faunal communities belonging to Fishes, Aquatic Coleoptera, Aquatic Hemiptera, Mollusca, Rotifera, and Branchiopoda were identified during this month. A total of 13 DNA sequences were submitted to NCBI. All the Scientists and Staff of the centre Participated in ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ on 12th August 2025 as part of Nationwide Jan Bhagidari Andolan. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Mission LiFE and Swachhta Hi Seva Special Campaigns 5.0 were conducted to generate awareness among people. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme Phase – II’.



Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyrceros birostris* (Scopoli, 1786)



Silverbill *Euodice malabarica* (Linnaeus, 1758)



Pheasant-tailed jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scopoli, 1786)

WESTERN GHATS REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE, KERALA

A survey tour was conducted to Goa from 7th to 16th August 2025. A total of 61 species of faunal communities belonging to Testate Amoeba, Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Pisces, and Arachnida were identified. One species of snake, i.e., *Xylophis chenkaruppan* Narayanan, Ghosh, Palot, Umesh, Gower, Deepak. 2025 and one species of Coleoptera, i.e., *Bradymerus mookambikanus* Viswanath, Hegde, & Ruzzier, 2025, were described new to science. One Identification and advisory service was rendered, and five manuscripts were reviewed by the scientists of the centre. A total of 140 visitors visited the museum of the centre. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on ‘Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme’.



Survey Team at Goa



‘Faunal diversity of Mangalore University’ book release



Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

ESTUARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, GOPALPUR-ON-SEA, ODISHA

A survey tour was conducted to Badarama Wildlife Sanctuary, Odisha. A total of 108 species of different faunal communities were identified during this month. *Aedes lineatopennis* (Ludlow, 1905) and *Plectropomus pessuliferus* (Fowler, 1904) were reported for the first time from the country. A total of 09 DNA barcodes were uploaded in the NCBI. All the Scientists and Staff of the centre Participated in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' on 12th August 2025 as part of Nationwide Jan Bhagidari Andolan. The 79th Independence Day was celebrated. Officers and staff of the centre took the National Sports Day Pledge on 29th August 2025. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme'.



Ratsriya Karmayogi Training at EBRC



Har Ghar Tiranga at Conference Hall, ZSI, APRC

ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

A survey tour was conducted in the district of Kurung Kumey, Arunachal Pradesh from 28th July to 9th August 2025. A local survey was also conducted at the Poma River in Assam. A total of 58 species of faunal communities belonging to Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Orthoptera, and Pisces were identified. Officers and staff of the centre attended one day training program on 'Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Programme Phase – II'.



Dr. SD Gurumayum attending State Wild life board meeting at CM office



Independence Day celebration

MARINE AQUARIUM AND REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA, WEST BENGAL

Local survey tour was conducted to Bichitrapur mangrove and Hospital ghat area, Digha, West Bengal on 1st and 11th August 2025. A total of 29 species of faunal communities belonging to Mollusca, crustacea, and Nematoda were identified. A total of seven Identification and Advisory Services were rendered to different institutions. All scientists and staff members attended ‘Rashtriya Karmayogi iGOT a Large-Scale Jan Seva Training Programme’ on 13th August 2025. A total of 2505 visitors visited the museum of the centre.



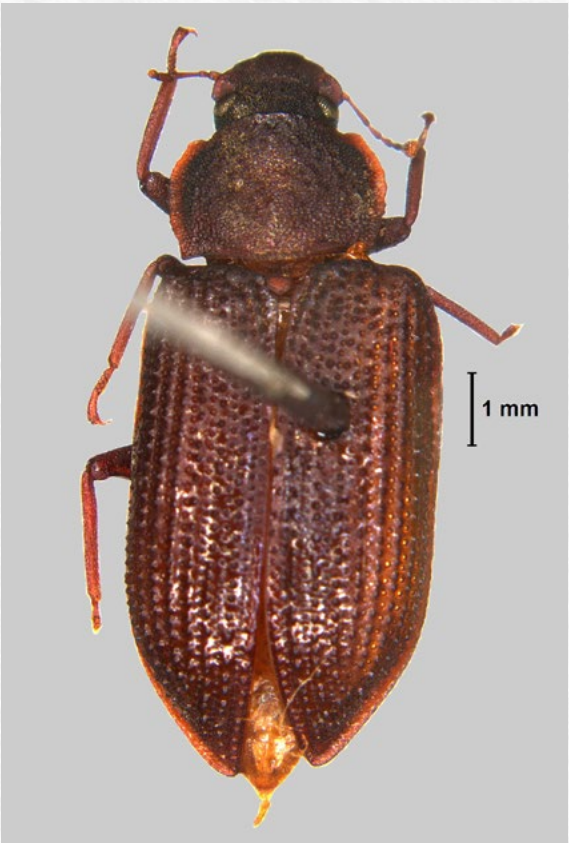
Pledge taking on National Sports Day

NEW DISCOVERIES

NEW SPECIES



Neoserica akurdi Kalawate, 2025



Bradymerus mookambikanus
Viswanath, Hegde & Ruzzier, 2025

Anastatus narendrani
Rameshkumar et al. 2025





Anastatus gibsoni Rameshkumar et al., 2025



Xylophis chenkaruppan
Narayanan, Ghosh, Palot, Umesh, Gower & Deepak, 2025



Brachymeria delvarei Binoy, 2025

NEW RECORDS



Aedes lineatopennis
(Ludlow, 1905)



Brachymeria discreta
Gahan, 1942

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» Shrivastava, A., Prasad, V.K., Gautam, K., Padhy, A.P., Dave, D., Dinesh, K.P. and Borzée, A. 2025. An integrated approach to confirm a range extension for *Fejervarya orissaensis* (Anura: Dicroglossidae) in Maharashtra, India. *Zootaxa*, **5673**(3): 447–450.

» Sreeraj, C.R., Sen, A., Singh, L.K., Pillai, H.U. and Raghunathan, C. 2025. Ichthyofauna of India (1758–2024): review, analysis, and annotated checklist. *Journal of the Ocean Science Foundation*, **44**: 1–87.

» Swain, S., Sharma, G., Chittora, S. and Suman, D. S. 2025. Molecular confirmation of a new mosquito record *Aedes lineatopennis* from Odisha along with a comprehensive update of mosquito (Diptera: Culicidae) fauna in India. *Biologia*, 1-11.

» Venkatraman, C., Sivaperuman, C., Sakthivel, R., Kamalakannan, M., and Padmanaban, P. 2025. Status and population dynamics of Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis* (Muller, 1842) in the Andaman Islands. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, **125**(iiS): 1-12.

» Viswanath, T., Hegde, V. D., and Ruzzier, E. 2025. *Bradymerus mookambikanus* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae), a new species from India. *Zootaxa*, **5679**(3):440-446.

POPULAR ARTICLES

» Sengupta, J. 2025. *Silent Wings, Vital Work: The untold story of Hoverflies*. In: Banerjee, D., Rizvi, A.N., Roy, D. and Sengupta, J. 2025. *Creature Chronicles: Wild Hearts, Wise Minds*. 210pp. (Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India).

» Sengupta, J. 2025. *Winged Worries or Unsung Heroes? A closer look at flies*. In: Banerjee, D., Rizvi, A.N., Roy, D. and Sengupta, J. 2025. *Creature Chronicles: Wild Hearts, Wise Minds*. 210pp. (Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India).

HINDI ARTICLE

» Bahuguna, A. 2025. Chintan se Vigyan tak vedant. *Vigyan Parichrcha*. **15**(1): 08-11.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

» Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, was invited to attend a meeting scheduled under the chairmanship of Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEFCC at Indira Prayavaran Bhawan, MoEFCC to discuss about various agenda regarding “*Wildlife Week Celebration, 2025: Coexistence through Awareness*” on 6th August 2025; delivered an inspirational

and enthusiastic speech during the ‘*Women’s Scientist Conclave 2025 (Extraordinary: Wings of Wisdom)*’ organized by the Recreation Club of ZSI, commemorating the glorious journey of Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, the First Women Director in the 110-year history of ZSI and honoring the profound contributions of women in science and beyond at Taj Taal Kutir, Kolkata on 6th August, 2025; released two books - “*Creature Chronicles- Wild Hearts, Wise Minds*” and “*ZSI Directory 2025*” and presented “*Women in Zoology (WIZ) Awards*” and “*Women Achievers Awards*” on the occasion of ‘Women’s Scientist Conclave 2025 (Extraordinary: Wings of Wisdom)’ on 6th August 2025 at Taj Taal Kutir, Kolkata; was invited to participate in the meeting on “*Environmental and Ecological safeguards of Kappaphycus alvarezii farming*” in the Gulf of Mannar on 7th August 2025; chaired the meeting to identify the candidates for Padma Awards 2026 and nominate the top deserving suitable candidates to the Ministry based on the suggested criteria on 8th August 2025; attended MoEFCC meeting to identify the candidates for Padma Awards 2026 and nominate the top deserving suitable candidates to the Ministry based on the suggested criteria on 8th August 2025; was invited to the meeting for finalization of content under the Chairmanship of AS (AG): India Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan on 8th August 2025; attended a meeting with Dr. Paul Hebert, Director of the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics on 11th August 2025 to discuss the current developments and ongoing efforts in the IHR (Indian Himalayan Region) Faunal Diversity project undertaken by ZSI, to explore areas of mutual interest and develop a framework for future collaborative activities, to discuss about software transfer, preparing the National database, pioneer partnership in the field of DNA Barcoding and establishing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU); attended the Inaugural Session of 4th International Conference on Recent Trends and Development in Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Sciences organised by the SBSRD, Prayagraj, UP as a chief guest on 13th August 2025 and also was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2025 for her outstanding contribution in the field of Entomology by Society of Biological

Sciences and Rural Development (SBSRD); attended the 59th meeting of the Executive Committee of Science City, Kolkata on 14th August 2025; hoisted the National Flag at ZSI HQs, offered floral tribute to the freedom fighters, participated in a rally started from office campus along with scientists, staff, research scholars & and invited guests of honour on the occasion of 79th Independence Day celebration and also delivered a special address on the mission and vision to “*Vikshit Bharat:2047*”; was Invited to the Consultative Workshop: Strengthening Pashmina Industry with Technological Solutions to Promote Trade jointly organised by CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology’s laboratory for the conservation of endangered species LaCONES, Hyderabad and CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu & Kashmir on 19th August 2025; was invited to the TFRI (Tropical Forest Research Institute) & AFRI (Arid Forest Research Institute) Joint Regional Research Conference on the theme “*Ensuring Quality Planting Material(QPM) for Sustainable Forestry Standards, Sources & Practices*” at ICFRE-Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur on 20th August 2025; was invited to a meeting on implementation of Mandatory Course Completion & Comprehensive Assessment on iGOT Karmayogi Portal hosted by MOEFCC on 25th August 2025; was invited to a meeting on 26th August 2025 under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional secretary regarding Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd October to 31st October 2025; was invited to the meeting for finalization of the videos under the Chairmanship of AS (AG): India Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan on 28th August 2025; was invited to the Regional Research Conference on the topic “*Forestry interventions for inclusive and sustainable economic growth*” jointly organised by (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)-Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi and ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad on 29th August 2025; attended the 3rd Edition of Jal Sevak Samman 2025 to honour Water Warriors and their impact an initiative by Electrosteel castings Ltd. At ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata on 31st August 2025 and delivered an impressive speech on the mutualism between water secure future and

Biodiversity Conservation; was featured in the Leading Ladies list as “*Mistress of species: Guarding India’s Biodiversity*” as a part of India Today Woman Summit 2025.

- » Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-F, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a meeting chaired by Additional Secretary, MoEFCC on 8th August 2025 related to World Expo 2025 to be held in Osaka, Japan from 13th April to 13th October 2025 under the theme “*The Future of Earth and Biodiversity*”; provided the inputs for Lok Sabha Unstarred Question due for an answer on 11/08/2025 regarding “*Preservation of Orans*” and submitted to Ministry on 8th August 2025; provided the inputs for Rajya Sabha Starred Question diary No. 7513 regarding “*Biodiversity Loss and Species Protection*” and submitted to Ministry on 12th August 2025; provided the inputs for Lok Sabha untarred Question diary No. 4086 regarding “*National Action Plan for Climate Change*” and submitted to Ministry on 12th August 2025; provided the inputs for Lok Sabha untarred Question diary No. 12971 regarding “*Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in Andhra Pradesh*” and submitted to Ministry on 12th August 2025; provided the inputs for Lok Sabha untarred Question diary No. S7289 regarding “*Effect of cutting of forests on the environment*” and submitted to Ministry on 13th August 2025; provided the pulse survey interview on EU-India cooperation on cumulative Impacts of marine pollution on marine organisms and ecosystems to the officials of UNESCO on 23rd August 2025; attended the meeting for finalization of the videos under the Chairmanship of AS (AG): India Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan chaired by the Secretary, MoEFCC on 25th August 2025 at New Delhi; conducted orientation progarmme on coral reef fauna to the newly recruited to GNI Project staff at ZSI, ANRC on 28th and 29th August 2025; cleared Module 8 of IUCN Red List i.e. Regional Assessment course.
- » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, attended the organized by RT Division in connection with the proposed IFS compulsory training courses on 29th August 2025; attended the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) at ICAR-Central Island Agricultural Research Institute, A &

- N Islands on 11th August 2025; attended as a Vice Chancellor Nominee for the selection of Assistant Professors (On contractual), at Department of Ocean Studies and Marine Biology, Pondicherry University, Port Blair on 12th and 29th August 2025.
- » Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, participated as External Expert in the Board of Studies Meeting of Zoology in the Conference Hall of Dolphin Institute, Dehradun on 06th August 2025; participated as External Expert in the Evaluation of EDP and Research & Development Programmes in the Conference Hall of Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), Dehradun from 25th to 28th August, 2025.
- » Dr. V.D. Hegde, Scientist-F, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, along with Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, attended the book release function of Faunal Diversity of Mangalore University Campus – A Pictorial Guide at the Department of Applied Zoology, Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri, on 22nd August 2025.
- » Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist-F, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, attended Board meeting of Chennai Snake Park Trust on 28th August 2025.
- » Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, attended the event “*Extraordinary-NARI: Wings of Wisdom*” and First ZSI Women’s Day at Hqs, Kolkata on 6th August 2025; participated in the Rajasthan Ex-Situ Conservation Authority (RESCA) General Body meeting under the chairman ship of Honourable State Forest Minister, Rajasthan on 18th August 2025 in virtual mode; along with Dr. R. Bano, Scientist -E attended 12th Half-yearly NARAKAS meeting of Rajbhasha Hindi at CAZRI, Jodhpur on 20th August 2025.
- » Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, attended meeting and field visit related to project “*Detailed Biodiversity Assessment and Preparation of Wildlife Conservation plan, Biodiversity conservation plan, Animal Passage/ Mitigation plan for Development of Proposed 4-Laning section of NH-53 Passing through Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary Portion in the Odisha State*” from 19th to 22nd August 2025.

- » Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended GCZMA meeting on report submitted regarding rectification of draft CZMP-2019 sheets related to GMB concerned areas on 1st August 2025 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat; attended the Meeting of the Technical and Financial Committee of National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 19th August 2025.
- » Dr. A.S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended a meeting of Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board on 26th August 2025 and evaluated 33 proposals.
- » Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist-E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur attend 26th STAG Meeting at MoEF&CC, New Delhi (29th-30th August 2025) and presented the proposed project presentation entitled “*Assessing ecosystems for the conservation and management of Himalayan wild pollinators- Action for Long-Term Monitoring assessments of Himalayan Bumblebees towards biodiversity conservation*”.
- » Dr. D.S. Suman, Sceintist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, participated in a meeting organised by DGHS, MoHFW, Gol on 6th August 2025 at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the OA No.2512025 filed in National Green Tribunal (NGT) Principal Bench, New Delhi regarding the use of *Gambusia Affinis* (Mosquito fish) and *Poecilia Reticulata* (Guppy) for mosquito control.
- » Dr. Deepa Jaiswal, Scientist – E, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, attended “*Women Scientific Conclave-2025*” on 6th August 2025 at Kolkata; along with Smt. Rehanuma Sulthana Asst. Zoologist attended “*Special Campaign 5.0*” through Hybrid Mode on 26th August 2025.
- » Dr. M. E. Hassan, Scientist-E, ZSI/GPRC, Patna, attended meeting as an expert in Entomologist on Megha Diversity Workshop on biodiversity impacts of forest restoration in Meghalaya, India on 11th August 2025 for a project funded by the European Forest Institute (EFI), an international research organization established by European states organised by Department of Botany, School of Biological Sciences, University of Science and Technology

Meghalaya (USTM), Techno City, Baridua, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya-793101; attended meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary on 29th August 2025 regarding Special Campaign 5.0.

- » Dr. Jennifer Lyngdoh, Scientist-E, ZSI/NERC, Shillong, attended the Women Scientific Conclave at Kolkata on 6th August 2025.
- » Dr. P.S. Bhatnagar, Scientist- E, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, along with Dr. S.D. Paunikar, Scientist-E and Mrs. Pallabi Priyadarsini attended virtual meeting under the chairmanship of Shri. Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC regarding organizing *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign at workplace on 12th August 2025; along with Dr. S.D. Paunikar, Scientist-E, attended virtual meeting under the chairmanship of Shri. Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC, regarding Special Campaign 5.0. on 26th August 2025.
- » Dr. S.D. Gurumayum, Scientist-E, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended the 1st Women’s Day of ZSI, Kolkata, on 6th August 2025; attended the BSI/ APRC, Itanagar, foundation day on 8th August as Chief Guest; attended Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board meeting to discuss on the orchid society of AP to declare orchid capital of the world and on the BMCs functioning of the state on 11th August 2025 at SFRI; attended online SEAC meeting on 6th August 2025 to review 2 project proposals submitted to the state forest department; along with Mr. Amartya Pal, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, had a discussion with Honorable CM of Arunachal Pradesh at his office chamber on 15th August 2025 and discussed about research work of ZSI and instructed to give a ppt presentation on the work done of ZSI so far in the state of Arunachal Pradesh; along with Dr. Vikram Delu, Scientist-B, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended project proposal submitted by Itanagar Municipality Council at Holongi on 18th August 2025; attended State Wild life board meeting at CM office on 19th August 2025 chaired by Honorable CM of Arunachal Pradesh; attended online meeting of SEAC on 20th August 2025 to discuss about the project proposal submitted by IMC Itanagar on the Solid waste management plant after the field visit; attended the State Level Steering

Committee and Consultation meeting on Gol-UNDP WWE US-GEF funded project on “*Strengthening conservation and resilience of globally-significant wild cat landscapes through a focus on small cat and leopard conservation*” under the Chairmanship of PCCF & HoFF on 27th August 2025, at Conference Hall of PCCF office, Itanagar.

- » Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist – E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, attended the NARAKAS Rajbhasha meeting and training at IIT, Kharagpur on 5th August 2025; attended a virtual meeting under the chairmanship of Shri. Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary (Administration) on 11th August 2025; attended a virtual meeting under the chairmanship of Shri. Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, on “*Har Ghar Tiranga*” campaign on 14th August 2025; attended a meeting (Hybrid Mode) organised by MoEFCC, New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary on 26th August 2025 regarding Special Campaign 5.0; attended the 28th Anniversary Day at Digha Science Centre, National Science Camp (A unit of National Council of Science Museums), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, as a Chief Guest, on 31st August 2025.
- » Dr. J.S. Yogesh Kumar, Scientist-E, ZSI/SbRC, Canning, participated in the seminar organizing committee meeting on 18th August through online mode which was organized by Tirunelveli Dakshna Mara Nadar Sangam College, T. Kallikulam – 627113, Tamil Nadu; participated a meeting (Hybrid Mode) under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary on 26th August 2025 regarding Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd October to 31st October 2025.
- » Dr. Souvik Sen, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended two VC meetings hosted by MoEFCC on 8th and 26th August 2025 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary regarding finalization of content for ‘*India Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan*’; attended two VC meetings hosted by MoEFCC on 6th and 8th August 2025 under the chairmanship of Director General of Forest & Special Secretary on the “*Nomination of Padma Awards 2026*”; attended a VC meeting on 19th August 2025 under the chairpersonship

of Ms. Nameeta Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC to discuss the draft MoU between ZSI, BSI and IORA; attended a VC meeting under the chairmanship of Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint Secretary (Admin), MoEFCC on 25th August 2025 to review the implementation status and provide necessary orientation on the “*Implementation of Mandatory Course Completion & Comprehensive Assessment on iGOT*”.

- » Dr. Tamal Mondal, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, provided reply on Data request for FDES 2013 Indicators; provided reply on Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha questions; provided reply on CBD Notification 2025-079 on the draft document containing the strategic review and analysis, and a draft update of the current expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the KMGBF; attended a meeting on promotion of seaweed cultivation under the chairmanship of Sh. Amandeep Garg, Additional Secretary on 4th August 2025; attended VC meetings under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary regarding finalization of content for ‘*India Pavilion at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan*’ organized by MoEFCC on 8th August 2025; attended meetings under the chairmanship of Director General of Forest & Special Secretary on the “*Nomination of Padma Awards 2026*” on 6th and 8th August 2025; attended a virtual meeting regarding “*Har Ghar Tiranga*” under the chairmanship of Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint secretary, MoEFCC on 11th August 2025; attended a meeting related to Indo-EU project submission details on 14th August 2025; A attended a meeting related to IORA on 19th August 2025 under the Chair of JS, MoEFCC.
- » Dr. Rahul Joshi, Scientist-D, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended the Synopsis seminar, RAC meeting of FRI University on 28th August 2025.
- » Dr. Temjenmongla, Scientist- D, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, attended a virtual meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC on 29th August 2025 regarding Special Campaign 5.0 from 2nd October to 31st October 2025.
- » Dr P. Girish Kumar, Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, attended an online meeting of the Nodal Officer of the Scholarship Fellowship

Management Portal with the Hon'ble Secretary of UGC held on 6th August 2025.

- » Ms Debashree Dam, Scientist-C, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, attended a virtual meeting conducted by Shri Satyajit Mishra, Joint secretary (Admin), MoEFCC on 11th August 2025 regarding “*Har Ghar Tiranga*”; attended a virtual meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Addl Secretary, MoEFCC on 26th August 2025 in connection with Special campaign 5.0.; attended the Jal Sevak Samman 2025 programme on 31st August at ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, along with the Director, ZSI.
- » Dr. Sandeep Kushwaha, Scientist-C, ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur, attended 4th International Conference on Recent Trends and Developments in Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Sciences, held at Prayagraj India from 13th to 14th August 2025; attended Meeting with Director, SOI, Jabalpur on 21st August 2025; was conferred the Scientist of the year Award-2025 on 13th August 2025 by the Society of Biological Sciences and Rural Development (SBSRD) for his outstanding contribution to Entomology.
- » Dr. Rita Deb, Assistant Zoologist, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended VC Meeting on *Har Ghar Tiranga* Campaign on 14th August 2025, organized by Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary.
- » Mr. Nethavath Naresh, Senior Zoological Assistant, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad, attended 9th Telangana State Wildlife Board Meeting on 4th August 2025 at Telangana State Secretariat.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

- » ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, along with BSI, IUCN-INDIA, CSS-INDIA-WTI organized “*IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop*” jointly by as per the initiative of MoEFCC, New Delhi, in that 40 trainee participants (12 Scientists from ZSI, 18 Scientists from BSI, and 10 Scientists from different organizations, including NGO's) participated trained under the Expert Trainers of IUCN Red Listing of Threatened Species held at BSI/ZSI, NRC, Dehradun from 23rd to 29th August 2025.
- » ZSI/MARC, Digha organized a one-day training programme on “*Marine Biodiversity and*

Conservation and their Special Reference to Marine Aquarium Fauna” for 25 officials from the Government of West Bengal, Directorate of Forests, Office of the Director, West Bengal Forest School, Dow-Hill, on 25th August 2025.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

- » Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Scientist-E, Dr. Anil Kumar Dubey, Scientist-E, Dr. Rahul Joshi, Scientist-D, Dr. Jayita Sengupta, Scientist-B, Dr. Imran Alam, Scientist-B, Dr. Surojit Kar, Scientist-B, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata; Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist-E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, Dr P. Girish Kumar, Scientist-D, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, Dr. Karuthapandi, M, Scientist-D, ZSI/FBRC, Hyderabad and Dr. P.C. Tudu, Scientist-D, ZSI/MARC, Digha attended IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop programme at BSI Dehradun from 23rd to 29th August 2025.
- » Dr. Dipanwita Das, Scientist-B, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, participated in four days online course on “*Environmental Legislations in India*” organized by the Centre for Tropical Biodiversity Conservation, Malappuram, Kerala, from 2nd to 5th August 2025,

LECTURES DELIVERED

- » Dr. V.D. Hegde, Scientist-F, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture at Ponda Education Society's Ravi S. Naik College of Arts and Science, Farmagudi, Ponda, Goa, on 11th August 2025.
- » Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-F, ZSI/NRC, Dehradun, delivered lecture on topic entitled “*Status of Faunal Diversity in India and role of ZSI Scientists play in assessment of Indian Fauna as per IUCN Red Listing of Threatened Species Criteria*” in the “*IUCN Red List Assessor Training Workshop*” organized jointly by ZSI, BSI, IUCN-INDIA, CSS-INDIA-WTI in the Conference Hall of BSI, NRC, Dehradun on 23rd August 2025.
- » Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist- F, ZSI/ANRC, Sri Vijaya Puram, delivered a talk on “*Unique Island Biodiversity and Data Analysis Techniques*” in the Department of Statistics, Bharathidasan University on 4th August 2025; delivered a

talk on “*Island Biodiversity, Conservation and Climate Change*” in the Department of Remote Sensing, Bharathidasan University on 4th August 2025; delivered a talk on “*Island Biodiversity, Conservation and Climate Change*” in the Department of Marine Sciences, Bharathidasan University on 4th August 2025; delivered a talk on “*An overview of Antarctica*” in the Department of Environmental Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University on 5th August 2025; delivered a talk on “*Island Biodiversity, Conservation and Climate Change*” for the probationer trainees of Central Academy for State Forest Service, Coimbatore on 13th August 2025; delivered a talk on “*An overview of Biodiversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands*” for the 11th Class Students, Carmel Senior Secondary School, South Andaman, 23rd August 2025;

- » Dr. Anil Mohapatra, Scientist-E, ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur-on-Sea, delivered a lecture on “*Crustaceans and Molluscs of Odisha coast: Conservation efforts and way forward*” on the foundation day of the Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar on 10th August 2025 at RMNH, Bhubaneswar.
- » Dr. Aparna S. Kalawate, Scientist-E, ZSI/WRC, Pune, attended and delivered the inaugural address and a lecture in a technical session on “*Museology*” in a one-day workshop on “*NEP 2020 Syllabus*” at Maulana Azad College, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra, on 25th August 2025.
- » Dr. S. Balakrishnan, Scientist-E, ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered a lecture entitled “*Marine Biodiversity and Conservation and their Special Reference to Marine Aquarium Fauna*” for 25 officials from the Government of West Bengal, Directorate of Forests, Office of the Director, West Bengal Forest School, Dow-Hill, organized by the office on 25th August 2025.
- » Dr. R. H. Raina, Scientist-E, delivered a lecture on wildlife conservation and collection preservation of fauna among the students from JNV University, Jodhpur on 7th August, 2025.

- » Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Scientist-E, ZSI/HQ, Kolkata acted as Master Trainer under Rashtriya Karmayogi Training Programme at Annandale Hall, ZSI HQ on 12th, 14th and 18th August 2025.
- » Dr. R. Bano, Scientist –E, ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur, given the “*Rashtriya Karmayogi Training Programme*” as a Master Trainer at ZSI/WRC, Pune on 11th August 2025, at ZSI/EBRC, Gopalpur on 13th August 2025, at ZSI/DRC, Jodhpur on 19th August 2025, at ZSI/NRC, Dehradun on 21st August 2025 and at ZSI/CZRC, Jabalpur on 26th August 2025.
- » Dr. Temjenmongla, Scientist- D, ZSI/APRC, provided training as Master Trainer at 5 different occasions, ZSI/APRC, Itanagar, ZSI/HARC, Solan, (two at) ZSI/HQ, Kolkata, and GBPNiHE, ZSI/NERC, Itanagar) under Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme (Phase II).
- » Dr. A. Gokul, Scientist-C, ZSI/SRC, Chennai, delivered an Endowment Lecture on the Taxonomy and Ecology of Crustaceans with special reference to Brachyuran Crabs at Ethiraj college for Women, Chennai on 25th August 2025.
- » Dr Muhamed Jafer Palot, Scientist-C, ZSI/WGRC, Kozhikode, delivered a lecture on “*Biodiversity Wealth and Conservation*” to students of the Centre for Information & Guidance India (CIGI), Chevayur, Calicut, on 15th August 2025, as part of the C-IDEA Fest 2025; delivered a lecture on “*Biodiversity Conservation and the Legacy of Kerala*” to the Nature Club students of JDT Islam Arts & Science College, Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode, on 16th August 2025.
- » Dr. Aditya Kapil Valiveti, Scientist – C (Chemi.), ZSI/MARC, Digha, delivered lecture on the six-month progress report at the NARAKAS Rajbhasha meeting and training at IIT, Kharagpur on 5th August 2025; delivered lecture on “*Marine Biodiversity and Conservation and their Special Reference to Marine Aquarium Fauna*” for 25 officials from the Government of West Bengal, Directorate of Forests, Office of the Director, West Bengal Forest School, Dow-Hill, organized by ZSI/MARC, Digha on 25th August 2025.

PHOTO GALLERY



Inauguration of the ZSI Women’s Scientist Conclave 2025 by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI



Director ZSI and dignitaries on dais during “Extraordinary- Wings of Wisdom”



Glimpse of the speech of Director,ZSI during “Extraordinary- Wings of Wisdom”



Director, ZSI with the achievers of Women in Zoology (WIZ) Award 2025



Felicitation to Dr. Rina Chakraborty by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee & Prof. Geetanjali Das



A precious moment of Director, ZSI with the delegates present in Panel Discussion



Release of the Book – “Creature Chronicles-Wild Hearts, Wise Minds”



Release of ZSI Directory, 2025



Interview in News Media on ZSI Women's Day



Independence Day speech by Director ZSI



Independence Day parade at ZSI HQs premises



Independence Day rally led by Director, ZSI



Glimpses of Independence Day Rally



Glimpses of Independence Day celebration



LEADING LADIES

At the India Today Women Summit, participants from diverse fields showed that women aren't waiting for a seat at the table; they are setting the table and changing the conversation

Photograph by ANANT K. SHARMA

MISTRESS OF SPECIES: GUARDING INDIA'S BIODIVERSITY



DHRITI BANERJEE

Director, Zoological Survey of India

“ India contains roughly 7% of the world's biodiversity while covering only 2% of the Earth's land area. This diversity faces many threats, one of which includes the dangers of bringing foreign species into the country to be kept as pets ”

Director, ZSI featured in India Today Leading Ladies list